

THREE NEEDED CHANGES IN OUR LAWS.

By
DAN MORGAN SMITH.



Dan Morgan Smith, Lawyer, Writer and Late Candidate for Congress in the Third Congressional District.

Agitating the public mind to-day are the questions, shall we have Municipal Ownership, the Referendum and Initiative and the election of United States senators by direct vote of the people.

There was a time when the ownership by municipalities of the public utilities within its confines was regarded as a Utopian idea of socialistic tendency but the constant and persistent encroachment upon public property, and the policy of "the public be damned," consistently followed by the private corporations having these public utilities within their grasp, has brought the thinking public to a realization that if they would preserve their rights they must reserve them to their own control.

An utter disregard not only of the convenience but of the safety of the public, coupled with inefficient service and exorbitant charges has brought about a revulsion of feeling, until the public to-day prefer to fly to dangers they know not of, rather than longer stand the abuses they now endure.

That the municipal ownership of public utilities would be successful in Chicago, has been demonstrated by the ownership and operation of the water system. Where a theory has been tried and proven a success, the proper thing to do is to extend the practical workings of that theory to its logical conclusion.

The Initiative and Referendum is proposed legislation that will reserve unto the citizens the power to veto unwise, unjust and corrupt legislation, and to pass by direct legislation such laws as their representatives fail or refuse to pass. It is but a reserving unto themselves a part of the authority too important to delegate to others without reservation.

Its effect would be to make impossible such legislation as the Allen Bill, and make possible legislation inimical to the welfare of the political boss, such as a Direct Primary Law.

Public servants should be selected by direct vote, whenever it is practicable, for delegated authority affords the opportunity to betray the trust imposed; a principal acting for himself avoids one chance of betrayal. It is notoriously true that corrupt legislatures have sent to the United States Senate men who are well known agents and plant tools of the corporate interests that demand and secure their election.

The theory upon which the framers of the Constitution acted when they provided that one branch of our national legislature should not be answerable directly to the people, the fear that public clamor might cause unwise legislation, has been disproven by the history of our country; the American people are not emotional and can be trusted to ask of their law making bodies only such legislation as is wise, just, and for the benefit of all the people, as well as for the prosperity and good of the government.

Make United States senators answerable to the people that they assume to represent; see that their votes and actions are scanned by the voters; let their re-election depend upon the stand they have taken upon public questions, and they will pay more attention to the needs of the people and less to the demands of the favored few.

These are but a few of the more glaring examples of needed legislation, and have been selected because they embrace our municipal, State and Federal Government, and because they tend towards the ideal government: "A government of the people, by the people, for the people."

JACKSON GORDON.



Jackson Gordon, Real Estate Owner and Successful Republican Politician.

Jackson Gordon is one of the best known men of the Afro-American race in Chicago for almost all the days of his life has been spent within the walls of this city. He received his education in its public or common schools in his earlier years. Jackson Gordon worked at various small occupations and for a long time he was head waiter at Chapin and Gore's famous chop house. After giving up his position with Chapin and Gore, he traveled all over this country with Mr. George L. Phillips, who introduced and established the Bell telephone system in this city.

Mr. Gordon, always possessed a liking for politics and the first political position he held was that of bridge-tender at Van Buren street under Mayor Hempstead Washburn, and his friends gladly signed his bond for him for \$10,000.

While serving the city in that responsible position no accident or error of any kind occurred or was made by him. He was in charge of the Van Buren St. bridge at the time the west approach to the bridge sank and it was owing to his coolheadedness and intelligent and prompt action that a

great or far-reaching calamity was averted.

Other well-paying political positions were still in store for Mr. Gordon, and in time he was appointed by postmaster Gordon, under the civil service rules custodian of the post office and he left a first-class record behind him. From the post office he was assigned to a nice position in the office of the board of assessors of Cook county, and for the past four or five years he has made thousands of friends among all classes of citizens who frequent the rooms of the board of assessors.

For many years Mr. and Mrs. Gordon have resided in their large brick flat building, 3152 Dearborn street, they are members of Grace Presbyterian church, and are among its best workers. It is needless to add that Mr. and Mrs. Gordon, are identified with the very best element of our race and command the highest respect of all the people residing in their community.

Miss Adrienne Jones, of Memphis, Tenn., who is attending Oberlin College, is visiting her grandmother Mrs. B. Washington, 4901 Dearborn street, where, in company with Mrs. Washington, she will peruse the "Seventh Anniversary Edition" of this paper.

We think it is about time The Broad Ax of Chicago would let up on Rev. Murray. It is never advisable to wash one's dirty linen in public, and the whole affair reflects credit upon neither party. Mud slinging never pays. Some is sure to stick in the hands of the slinger.—The Advocate, Milwaukee, Wis.

The swellest affair of the season was the reception given by the Bachelor Club at the Douglas Club House Christmas Eve. The hall was beautifully decorated. Mrs. Hart, 32nd and Cottage Grove avenue, served the luncheon for the vast number of ladies and gentlemen who joined in the merry dance. Short addresses were delivered by Dr. A. Wilberforce Williams and several other gentlemen.

MRS. CARRIE WARNER.

Mrs. Carrie Warner who is one of the wide-awake Afro-American business Women of Chicago, was born in the little city of Troy, Lincoln county, Mo. She received her education in the schools of her native city. After budding into woman-hood she and her mother removed to the city of St. Louis, where they resided for twelve years. While living in the last named city in order to earn an honest living Mrs. Warner labored very hard. She was not above washing and ironing for many wealthy families of that

Mrs. Warner, decided several years ago to learn some trade or profession so that she could earn an independent living for herself; consequently she devoted her spare time to studying the art of manicuring and facial treatment and little over one year ago she graduated from the Moler college, 435 Wabash avenue, and without the least doubt she has thoroughly mastered her profession. The first of October past, Mrs. Warner established herself in business at 138 State street, 4th floor; her Tel. is



Mrs. Carrie Warner, President of The Gelena Club; Vice President of The Phyllis Wheatley Club; One of the Successful Business Women of This The Queen City of The West.

city which is to her everlasting credit it shows that she was not raised up with a golden spoon in her mouth.

Five years ago Mrs. Warner, her husband Mr. Warner, whom she married just before leaving St. Louis came to this city to reside and most of that time they have lived at 5133 Grove avenue, where they and her mother who makes her home with them are surrounded with the comforts of life.

Being full of pluck and ambitious

Central 3026, and her Chiropodist and Manicure Parlors are frequented by hundreds of the best and the wealthiest white ladies of this city which is sufficient to prove that Mrs. Warner is a successful business woman.

Mrs. Warner is a member of St. Thomas church, President of the Gelena Club, and vice-President of the Phyllis Wheatley Club. She has the tact of making fast and lasting friends of those who have the pleasure of making her acquaintance.

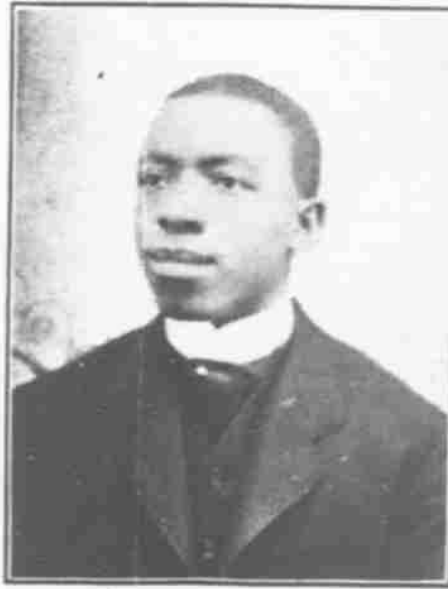


Hon. John G. Jones, Lawyer, Member of the Legislature of Illinois; the Greatest or the Highest Afro-American Mason in the World.

Carl J. Turner, the subject of this sketch, was born in the city of Memphis, Tenn., December 10, 1877. He received his early training or education at the Baptist College which is located in that Southern City of his birth.

Six years ago Mr. Turner removed to Chicago with his widowed mother, brother and sister and for some time they have resided at 364 27th St. Mr. Turner, with the aid of his bro-

ther, save their money and support or maintain their mother and sister in comfortable quarters. He is unlike many of our Afro-American young men who prowl around town all hours of the night and recklessly spend the money which they are compelled to labor for so hard and by expending their time and energy foolishly, unfit themselves to perform their labors properly. And as a result they are unable to hold steady positions. But this is not



CARL J. TURNER, VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE METROPOLITAN CLUB.

men who are ever ready to speak a good or kind word in his behalf.

Mr. Turner is vice-president of the Metropolitan Club, which has for its object the betterment and the improvement of our young Afro-American men of Chicago along moral and social lines, and strictly observes the moral laws himself, being thoroughly honest, reliable and trustworthy in every respect. Mr. Turner is well adapted to assist in carrying on the work of the Metropolitan Club.

MAJOR R. R. JACKSON.



Major General R. R. Jackson, Assistant Supt. Armour Station, Finance Secretary Appomattox Club.

The subject of this sketch, Robert R. Jackson, Major General commanding the Uniform Rank K. of P. of the world, was born in Malta, Ill., Sept. 1st, 1869. He received his education in the public schools of Chicago. Leaving school at the age of twelve, his first employment was as cash boy in one of the large stores that were beginning to spring up in the early '80s. At 16, he was an expert worker in the dental laboratory of Dr. J. W. Wallace, one of Chicago's leading dentists. Ill health caused him to seek other employment, forcing him to abandon the professional field for a more active life. His next employment was with the firm of Weeks and Co., expert Ladies' Tailors as errand boy. His close attention to his duties and the thorough knowledge of the business won for him rapid promotion. He served as chief buyer for the firm until 1888.

It was on the 9th day of December, 1888, that Major Jackson entered the postal service of the United States, having passed the civil service examination for clerks with the unusual high average of 98.16. Since his entrance in the classified service he has maintained his record for high averages by defeating his fellow white clerks in promotional examinations with averages of 99.40, 98.12, and 98.32, as many as 700 contesting for the honor in the same examination. During his fourteen years of service in the post office he has worked in every branch of the office, at the present time being assistant Superintendent of the Armour station.

The following secret societies and organizations claim his membership: Prince Hall Lodge, No. 52, A. F. & M.; St. George Commandery, No. 1, K. of T.; Pythias Lodge, No. 2, K. of T.; Illinois Company, No. 1, F. R. of P.; Golden Fleece Lodge, No. 12, G. U. O. of O. F.; Eighth Regiment, N. G.; Men's Sunday Club; Post Office Clerks Association; Appomattox Club; The Grand Lodge, K. of P. Ill.; Supreme Lodge K. of P. of the world and The service men of the Spanish-American war.

While Major Jackson is prominent in secret society circles he is perhaps best known as a military enthusiast. The high standard of discipline attained by the Eighth Regiment during the Spanish-American war was largely to the influence exerted by "Little Soldier" as he was termed by the members of his regiment. He was drill master of the famous eighth while in Cuba, and it is of record the best drilled and most gentlemanly soldiers in the Cuban campaign were the Eighth Regiment.

Major Jackson was judge of Summary court where all soldiers were tried for petty offences and minor violations of the Articles of War. He so tempered his judgment with mercy that he returned to the states without a single enemy in his regiment, a most noteworthy record.

S. A. T. WATKINS.

Samuel Asbury Thompson Watkins was born Jan. 25, 1869, at Memphis, Tenn. He is a product of the celebrated Le Moyne Institute having graduated therefrom May 30th, 1888. He taught school for one year thereafter, studied law in the meantime in the law office of T. F. Cassells, ex-Assistant Attorney General of Tennessee. He was admitted to the bar Feb. 5, 1891

of Illinois and Supreme attorney of the order universal. It was through the efforts of Mr. Watkins that the law departments were created and placed in charge of a practicing attorney.

In politics Mr. Watkins is a Democrat and wields a considerable influence among his large circle of acquaintances.



S. A. T. Watkins, Assistant Prosecuting Attorney of Chicago, Supreme Attorney, Knights of Pythias.

forming a partnership with his former tutor, the firm being Cassells and Watkins.

He appeared at the bar of the Supreme Court of Tennessee, May 20th, 1892, and was enrolled as a member, winning his first case before that high tribunal after a hard fought legal battle lasting for three days.

Mr. Watkins came to Chicago in July, 1892, being admitted to the bar immediately thereafter. He is a prominent Knight of Pythias, being both the Grand Attorney of the Jurisdiction

Sept. 28th, 1898, Mayor Carter Harrison, in recognition of the valuable services rendered the Mayor's ticket, appointed him to the office of Assistant Prosecuting Attorney, which office he has filled with credit ever since.

Mr. Watkins was married to Miss Mattie M. Robinson March 1, 1891. They live at 4603 Armour Ave. where a ten-year-old son holds sway.

Mr. Watkins has built up a lucrative law practice, his office is at 80 Dearborn St., suite 303.